

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

I. (Currently Amended) A method of managing hardware resources, comprising:  
providing an executable software module configured to communicate with the hardware resources, the software module implementing a common interface to allow a monitoring device to be implemented independent of the hardware resources;  
operating the executable software module to cause the executable software module to return information to the monitoring device about the hardware resources, wherein the information includes hardware configuration information associated with the hardware resources and customer information associated with customers of the hardware resources, wherein the customer information includes ~~network addresses~~ world-wide names of equipment used by the customers, allocation information indicative of allocations of the hardware resources to the customers and billable event information for use by a billing application to bill the customers and indicative of usage of the hardware resources by the customers; and

storing the hardware configuration information and the customer information in a database.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hardware resources comprise data storage resources.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data storage resources reside in a datacenter controlled by a storage service provider.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising presenting the hardware configuration information and the customer information to an administrator of the storage service provider.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the hardware configuration information comprises data storage resource attributes.

6. (Original) The method claim 5, further comprising enabling the administrator to select, for a given data storage resource, which of the data storage attributes are to be stored in the database.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the executable software module comprises JAVA classes.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
generating a directory of the hardware resource; and  
storing the directory in the database.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the ~~executable software module~~ the common interface comprises a set of methods.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the methods include a first method that, when called, causes the executable software module to identify a type of hardware resource with which the executable software module is configured to communicate, and a second method that, when called, causes the software executable module to identify any hardware resources with which the executable software is configured.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the methods further include a third method that, when called, causes the executable software module to poll the hardware resources identified by the executable software module to provide attribute information associated with the hardware resources.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein results of the polling are provided in XML format.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the results of the polling are provided in a format other than XML and the executable software module performing the polling converts the results of the polling to XML format.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the methods further comprise a fourth method that, when called, causes the executable software module to return a list of services and associated parameters.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the methods further comprise a fifth method that, when called, causes the executable software module to execute a requested one of the services on a list of services.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein making a call to the fifth method comprises specifying values of parameters associated with the requested one of the services.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
adding a new data storage resource to the datacenter; and

placing the new data storage resource in a directory of hardware resources.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product residing on a computer-readable medium for managing hardware resources, the computer program product comprising instructions causing a computer to:

provide an executable software module configured to communicate with the hardware resources, the software module implementing a common interface to allow a monitoring device to be implemented independent of the hardware resources;

operate the executable software module to cause the executable software module to return information to the monitoring device about the hardware resources, wherein the information includes hardware configuration information associated with the hardware resources and customer information associated with customers of the hardware resources, the customer information includes ~~network addresses~~ world-wide names of equipment used by the customers, allocation information indicative of allocations of the hardware resources to the customers and billable event information for use by a billing application to bill the customers and indicative of usage of the hardware resources by the customers; and

store the hardware configuration information and the customer information in a database.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for managing storage resources comprising:

a server configured to execute software for managing resources to which the server is connected,

wherein the software includes an executable software module configured to communicate with the storage resources, the software module implementing a common interface to allow a monitoring device to be implemented independent of the resources, wherein the software module includes a method configured to monitor changes in configuration of the storage resources, configured to gather attribute information associated with the storage resources, configured to store storage resource configuration information associated with the storage resources and configured to store customer information associated with customers of the storage resources, the customer information includes ~~network addresses~~ world-wide names of equipment used by the customers, allocation information indicative of allocations of the storage resources to the customers and billable event information for use by a billing application to bill the customers and indicative of usage of the storage resources by the customers.

Claims 21 to 23 (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein storing comprises storing the customer information in a table, an entry in the table comprising:

a first field indicating an allocated hardware resource;

a second field storing the addresses of the equipment associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field; and

a third field indicating the customer associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein instructions causing a computer to store comprises instructions causing a computer to store the customer information in a table, an entry in the table comprising:

a first field indicating an allocated hardware resource;

a second field storing the addresses of the equipment associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field; and

a third field indicating the customer associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 26 wherein the executable software module is configured to store comprises the executable software module being configured to store the customer information in a table, an entry in the table comprising:

a first field indicating an allocated hardware resource;

a second field storing the addresses of the equipment associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field; and

a third field indicating the customer associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field.